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THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1921.

Harding Guards the Public Purse.

President Harding goes at the national economy job like the man of business experience and common sense he is. To choke off useless spending of the public funds, even when the money is on hand to spend, he drops a bomb into the centre camp of the spenders by warning them what is going to happen to them if they do not stick to his saving programme like glue.

Appropriations for the new fiscal year, which begins to-morrow, have been cut hundreds of millions of dollars. But that start on big economy gives nobody a license, under the Harding policy, to spend what is provided by the appropriators. Because Congress has allowed \$4,000,000,000 as a maximum for certain national purposes is no reason, in the homespun doctrine of the President, why it should all be spent. It is no reason, under that homespun doctrine, why a single nickel of it should be spent if it possibly can be saved.

President Harding serves fair notice on every department and bureau chief that anybody who wastes clear through his appropriation just because it is there for him to spend is going to find more trouble in holding his own berth than it would take him to find ways to not spend his whole allotment. A Government officer who cannot save some of his appropriation when there is a discoverable chance to save it is not good enough to work for the American people under their business manager in the White House. He has got to go and get his fair notice just before he begins the national spending for the new fiscal year.

When the President of the United States thus makes himself responsible for keeping money in the public purse instead of spilling every cent of it out for needless and early squander it is a certainty that the squanderer is going to lose its charm for the Federal spenders who have been scattering far and wide so many billions of the public's money. It is the next thing to a certainty that when the first whole fiscal year under his Administration closes the public purse will be comfortably filled with unexpended funds instead of showing a yawning deficit.

At last this country faces deliverance from the financial wilderness in which it has wandered for seven weary years.

As to Transportation Strikes.

There are numerous conspicuous and convincing reasons why a strike of the railway shippers against the wage reduction ordered by the United States Railroad Labor Board would be as profitable and healthful as a leap from an airplane up among the clouds without a parachute.

The first is what happened in the recent strike of the country's marine workers, which stopped short not only with no union jobs left but with no union left.

After mention of this, the first of the objections on the list, it is perhaps superfluous to go on with the several others.

Tick Free Area Enlarged.

That steady progress is being made in the war against the cattle tick is shown in a recent report which shows that 833,424 animals were dipped in the State of Georgia in the month of April.

This means a large addition to the territory officially held to be free from the tick. The fact that such progress has been made in Georgia, a cotton growing State, is an indication that the work of cattle protection is spreading throughout that part of the South which at one time was so infested with the tick that farmers and stock breeders were discouraged with the outlook and stood ready to abandon their industry.

The tick is the most potent cause of the spread of bovine fever. It is one of the times that the movement in Georgia has become so firmly established that range riders are employed to search out cattle which have not been treated. It is to tell stragglers, rogues, or those that have been dipped are marked with paint.

those that have been dipped are marked with paint. In some communities the work of tick eradication has met with opposition from individuals who did not understand it. A few meetings of protest were held, but opposition crumbled before the testimony of experts and farmers familiar with the situation.

At one time the South was the home of a forlorn looking type of long horned, slab sided cattle, but with the use of the dipping vat came the pure breeds, and in many regions prime beef is now marketed regularly where it was formerly impossible to maintain this branch of breeding.

With the tick out of the way there is no serious handicap on the cattle business, which is likely to grow steadily in importance as Southern farmers see the necessity, to say nothing of the advantage, of crop diversification.

Chairman Fordney's Surrender.

In yielding from his stubborn insistence upon an extortionate duty on lumber Chairman Fordney of the House Ways and Means Committee achieves several wise, useful and laudable results with one stroke.

At a time when there is a desperate timber shortage in this country and the public must supply its imperative needs, if at all, with foreign lumber Chairman Fordney puts the interests of the nation above the avarice of a few logging camps. He spares the Republican party from becoming, because of his legislative sacrifice of the public, the target of 40,000,000 plundered and outraged voters. He rescues his own political reputation from odium.

Chairman Fordney is entitled to a magnitude of congratulations. It goes without saying that the debt of Great Britain need not be dealt with and never would be dealt with by any national Secretary of the Treasury like notes of some countries whose names it is unnecessary to mention but whose financial tonnage is lighter than air.

Foreign Loan Power for Mellon.

The power which Secretary Mellon wants from Congress in the matter of our ten billions of dollars of war loans to foreign governments is to separate the sheep from the goats and to treat the sheep as sheep and the goats as goats. He ought to have it at once.

Some of these debts, and by far the greater part of them, are as good as gold, though not so immediately negotiable. Some of them are not worth the powder to blow them. It goes without saying that notes of Great Britain need not be dealt with and never would be dealt with by any national Secretary of the Treasury like notes of some countries whose names it is unnecessary to mention but whose financial tonnage is lighter than air.

Franco-German Rapprochement.

Dr. WALTER RATHENAU, German Minister of Reconstruction, and M. LOUCHEUR, French Minister of Devastated Regions, whose portfolios in the two governments are identical, met three miles over the Rhine at Wiesbaden, Germany, early in June to talk over reconstruction and reparations. It was a conference highly important for the world because it showed France and Germany getting together on mutual terms.

This kind of negotiation by direct contact of French and German Ministers to talk over their problems without reference to England, Belgium or Italy, or to the Supreme Council, has not been in vogue following the war. Never less than three Powers have been represented at previous conferences where German Ministers were present. The Wiesbaden innovation may be the beginning of a rapprochement between France and Germany leading to quiet settlement of disputed points and doing away with the frequent rumors of diplomatic "breaks" among the Allies.

Official advices from Paris that France and the other Powers will not now insist on indemnity payments in gold or in dollars, but will accept drafts on any country at current exchange rates show how fruitful these direct conferences can be. The main difficulty, now that the reparations have been fixed at 132,000,000,000 gold marks, is to find a way for Germany to pay. This point will be the main subject of the Wiesbaden conversations. Germany must pay 3,000,000,000 gold marks a year on the indemnity account. She will have to pay nearly the whole indemnity in the products of her industries and mines.

France and the other allied nations cannot absorb 3,000,000,000 marks of German goods a year. They must be sold all over the world and the proceeds paid to the Allies. Converting the proceeds of these sales into dollars, the only currency equivalent of gold, has proved detrimental to international trade because of the wild fluctuations caused in the exchange market.

In this connection it is important to note the remarks of Dr. RATHENAU in his address to the German Imperial Economic Council at Berlin after his return from Wiesbaden. According to an Associated Press despatch he advocated replacing the 25 per cent. tax on German exports by some other method of collecting reparations because the tax would amount to a prohibition on outgoing trade. The despatch continued:

"I further believed it possible and necessary to terminate the system under which Germany is obliged to purchase heavily quantities of foreign currency in order to meet her gold obligations. This, he contended, disorganized the international money market and was damaging to both German and French interests, and was decidedly detrimental to American interests.

"Dr. RATHENAU believed that some agreement must be reached whereby the dollar should no longer be the sole means of payment, and that payment in foreign currency should be so managed as to permit international markets to recover."

The evil of using the dollar to make indemnity payments was pointed out by THE NEW YORK HERALD at the time the decision to follow this plan was taken some weeks ago. The unsetting effect of these huge indemnity purchases of dollars is now a matter of record.

There are several remedies. The Allies could accept at the exchange rate of the day any foreign currencies Germany might tender in payment of maturing reparations drafts. This mixed quantity could be converted gradually into dollars or whatever other currency the Allies desired, and any gain or loss in the conversion would fall down on the German indemnity account.

Another method would be that outlined in a Paris despatch proposing the deposit of German bonds in the treasuries of allied nations and the flotation of reparations loans with the Entente nations' guarantees. Dr. RATHENAU also is correct in saying the 26 per cent. exports tax hurts German trade. But because of the disparity between the external and internal purchasing power of the mark this tax has a definite function in the reparations scheme. It takes for the Allies the difference, between domestic and foreign prices of German goods. Formerly this margin either went to the German Government or was retained by the German merchant.

But whatever the better methods of collecting reparations, the direct negotiations between the reconstruction Ministers of the two nations and the direct meetings of Government experts now being held in Paris offer an excellent method of working them out and putting them into practical use.

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Chilean Fruit in New York.

Our friend the South Pacific Mail of Valparaiso records with justified satisfaction the fact that a consignment of Chilean fruit shipped through the Panama Canal to New York in April on the steamship Essequibo arrived here in good condition and found a ready market. This was an experiment, and from its success our contemporary draws the most encouraging conclusions.

In accordance with this formula, which I do not give because it is likely your printer's case does not contain the requisite characters, it can be easily proved that all your correspondents are wrong, and that it is not the hunter that walks around the squirrel, but the tree that walks around both hunter and squirrel.

Plant or Thirst.

Grow Trees, Including the Odorous Allantus. To THE NEW YORK HERALD: If we don't see God's country to become a dry region like once well forested Spain, with disastrous floods on the side, we should call a halt on the reckless destruction of our woods. Give the oaks, beeches, walnuts, etc., a chance. Plant anywhere the quick growing, good smelling, alfalfa—quite good enough to turn into paper or for the pulp mills. The eucalyptus, which grows with the luxuriance and pertinacity of dandelions or milkweed, but drives off malaria. Its leaves are the foundation of many new and useful chemical products. About sixty years ago the eucalyptus was introduced on the bare slopes of the Nigiri Mountains in southern India. They are now covered with this beautiful tree, which sows itself. I suppose we need to chop, chop, chop. It would be well also to plant, plant, plant. The tropics have much better stuff for paper than wood and there are better building materials—brick, stone and other materials.

Can This Be True?

A Suggestion That the Tree Walks Around the Hunter. To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The momentous tree, squirrel and hunter problem cannot be solved by common sense. No, indeed. What has common sense to do with this subject? It can be solved only by higher mathematics, as follows: As we know that the square of the ratio expressed by the differential parabolic curve as superimposed upon a geocentric point whose nadir is a tangent on a concentric periphery is equal to the ratio of two hyperbolic curves reaching to infinity, therefore it is plain that this relationship can be expressed only by that formula of the ballistic spheroid discovered by Aufschneuffenheilm and published in his epoch making work on "Gunnery"—he was gunning for squirrels when he conceived this formula.

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Custer's Last Stand.

His Disastrous Defeat Laid to His Disobedience of Orders. To THE NEW YORK HERALD: We read with interest your editorial article on the "Last Flight of Custer," published Sunday. It recalled to our mind that Scriptural phrase "to obey is better than sacrifice," a lesson that General Custer had failed perfectly to learn.

No man ever knew an Indian better than Custer. He could shoot the scars with his bullets with them. President Grant looked upon Custer as the wards of the nation, but Custer regarded them as savages. When the command was given to General Terry, General Custer threatened to resign. But Custer was always a soldier first, and so reported for duty at Fort Lincoln in the fall of 1876. He was energetic, honest, sincere in his beliefs, but nervous and fretful, and did not hesitate to express his irritation over his being second in command.

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He Did Not Fight With His Fists When There Was Fighting. To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I've been thinking—soldiers do think—that perhaps if Sergeant Alvin C. York had killed all those Germans with his fists instead of with his rifle he'd be regarded as our champion fighter instead of Dempsey.

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Seeking the Unemployed.

Disappointing Experience of a Man Who Heard of Them. To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I have read much of late in the daily papers about the prevalence of unemployment throughout the country. At first I was inclined to be sympathetic, but after reflection, observation and a little personal experience I have arrived at the conclusion that unemployment is to a great extent unnecessary, and is in fact voluntary.

Not long ago I advertised for a man to work in the country and a woman to do plain cooking and a little housework. I received some forty or fifty applications from couples who would consent to take the place at from \$140 to \$180 a month. The wages I was prepared to pay were somewhat less than the figures mentioned above, consequently the applicants unanimously declined to consider the matter further.

It must be noted that the high cost of living did not enter into this at all, as I proposed to furnish transportation, good room and board, plus reasonable wages, for the mainly unskilled, labor required.

Another feature of the unemployment question that I fall to understand is this: The daily papers of New York City and elsewhere are crowded, column after column, with "help wanted" advertisements. Why do not some of the unemployed respond?

Then there are the strikers in every department of industry, men and women who refuse to continue to work at the job they have mainly because the excessive war time wages are no longer possible.

There is also the class who would accept "a position with a salary," but would scornfully refuse a "job with wages." I believe that nearly every one with a will to work can get something to do. If not just what they would like and are fitted for, then let them take up something else for the time being.

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It disposes of an estate estimated at \$1,500,000, and in addition to a bequest of \$250,000 and life use of household effects, Mrs. Page will receive, over and above the residue of the estate during her lifetime, the other half going to Mrs. Page's daughters.

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Daily Calendar

THE WEATHER. The Eastern New York—Partly cloudy to-day; to-morrow fair, not much change in temperature; moderate variable winds. Jersey—Partly cloudy to-day; to-morrow fair, not much change in temperature; fresh shifting winds.

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